

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALCUT 01053 300600Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02 SSO-00 CU-04 /019 W

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O R 300440Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5342

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS CALCUTTA 1053

JOINT CONGEN/USIS MESSAGE

USIA FOR INA

STATE FOR PA, NEA/INS, AND H (PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SARKAR, ASOKE KUMAR)

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO EDITOR/OWNER OF PATRIKA/
STANDARD NEWSPAPER GROUP

1. MR. ASOKE KUMAR SAKAR, EDITOR AND OWNER OF LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY IN INDIA, BENGALI LANGUAGE ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, AND OWNER OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE HINDUSTAN STANDARD AND BUSINESS STANDARD, WILL BE ATTENDING (AT HIS OWN EXPENSE) INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE CONFERENCE HOSTED BY AMERICAN PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION IN PHILADELPHIA MAY 9-13, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND BY DR. T.P. BASU, LONDON BASED EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT FOR ANANDA. MR. SARKAR UNDERSTANDS THAT, AS IN PAST CONFERENCES, APA WILL HANDLE HIS ARRIVAL AND PHILADELPHIA STAY AND WILL ALSO CONDUCT PARTICIPANTS AS FAR AS WASHINGTON D.C. REQUEST USIS DOUBLE CHECK THIS.

2. FOLLOWING CLOSE OF IPI CONFERENCE, MR. AND MRS. PLAN TO VISIT WASHINGTON, MINNEAPOLIS, DENVER, SALT LAKE CITY, AND PHOENIX. HE HAS ASKED THAT WE ARRANGE VISITS TO NEWSPAPERS AND MEETINGS WITH SENIOR MEDIA FIGURES IN THESE CITIES. IN WASHINGTON, MR. SARKAR SPECIFICALLY WANTS TO VISIT WASHINGTON POST AND MEET
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CALCUT 01053 300600Z

ITS PUBLISHER AND EDITOR, AND HE WOULD APPRECIATE OUR

SUGGESTIONS AND ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING OTHER VISITS AND THERE, AS WELL AS IN OTHER CITIES ON HIS ITINEARARY. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT USIA AND DEPARTMENT EXTEND ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. MR. SARKAR IS SENIOR, RESPECTED AND VERY INFLUENTIAL FIGURE IN INDIAN JOURNALISM AND AS SUCH MERITS EVERY ATTENTION THAT CAN BE GIVEN HIM.

3. FROM WASHINGTON MR. AND MRS. SARKAR WILL GO ON TO MINNEAPOLIS, WHOSE MAYOR, CHARLES STENVIG, HE MET HERE IN CALCUTTA LAST WEEK. MAYOR STENVIG URGED MR. SARKAR TO INCLUDE MINNEAPOLIS IN HIS ITINERARY AND IT IS SOLELY BECAUSE OF THIS THAT MR. SARKAR WILL BE VISITING MINNEAPOLIS. PLEASE INFORM MAYOR STENVIG OF THIS AND REQUEST THAT MAYOR ARRANGE APPROPRIATE MEETINGS WITH PRESS SECTOR IN MINNEAPOLIS AND OTHER HOSPITALITY. MR. AND MRS. SARKAR'S VISIT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO MAYOR AND MRS. STENVIG TO REPAY THE WARM HOSPITALITY THEY ENJOYED DURING THEIR VISIT TO CALCUTTA APRIL 20-24. (THEY WERE RECEIVED BY GOVERNOR AND CHIEF MINISTER OF WEST BENGAL, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, CMDA SECRETARY, AND ADMINISTRATOR OF CALCUTTA.)

4. MR. AND MRS. SARKAR WOULD LIKE RESERVATIONS IN MODERATELY PRICED HOTELS IN WASHINGTON, MINNEAPOLIS, DENVER, JACKSON (YELLOWSTONE PARK), SALT LAKE CITY, GRAND CANYON, AND PHOENIX. (SARKAR HAS BEEN GRANTED SIXTY DOLLARS A DAY BY THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA PLUS TWELVE DOLLARS A DAY FOR HIS WIFE.) THEY WOULD ACCEPT HOME HOSPITALITY FOR MEALS BUT WANT TO STAY IN HOTELS AT NIGHT (SARKARS ARE IN THEIR MID-SIXTIES). BASU WILL NEED SINGLE AT SAME HOTELS SAME DAYS.

5. SARKAR SCHEDULED LEAVE CALCUTTA THURSDAY MAY 6. PLEASE ADVISE US SOONEST OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH CAN BE MADE FOR HIM.

6. FOLLOWING IS TRAVEL SCHEDULE (ALL DATES, TIMES AND FLIGHT NUMBERS ARE FOR ARRIVAL):
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PAGE 03 CALCUT 01053 300600Z

CITY	DATE	TIME	FLIGHT NO.
LONDON	MAY 7	0615	BA-749
PHILADELPHIA	MAY 8	1630	BA-561
WASHINGTON	MAY 13		SURFACE
MINNEAPOLIS	MAY 19	1410	NW 69
DENVER	MAY 21	1315	NC-723
JACKSON	MAY 24	1236	FL-532
SALT LAKE CITY	MAY 26	1745	FL-111

GRAND CANYON MAY 30 1545 RW-571
PHOENIX JUNE 1 1245 DP-415
MEXICO CITY JUNE 3 1640 AM-103
LONDON JUNE 9 0730 BA-240
KORN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CALCUT01053
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760164-0498
From: CALCUTTA JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976044/aaaaacxp.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO EDITOR/OWNER OF PATRIKA/ STANDARD NEWSPAPER GROUP
TAGS: OVIP, (SARKAR, ASOKE KUMAR)
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006